

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 4, 2006. Claims 20 to 28 are in the application, with Claims 17 to 19 having been cancelled herein. Claims 20 and 23 to 28 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 17 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0078160 (Kemp). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to managing print orders between a user apparatus and a print management apparatus. According to the invention, using conditions are transmitted from the user apparatus to the print management apparatus. Based on the using conditions, print shop information of candidate print shops is obtained by the print management apparatus and transmitted to the user apparatus. The user apparatus forms screen information for displaying print shops, where the screen information is formed based on the received print shop information and an obtained print setting so that the print shops are indicated as being selectable or not. The user apparatus accepts a designation of selecting print shop information. When a print shop is selected, a print order is formed by the user apparatus, including a designation of the selected print shop, and transmitted to the print management apparatus.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 20 defines a user apparatus that communicates with a print management apparatus via a network. The user apparatus comprises using condition transmitting means for transmitting using conditions to the print management apparatus, and print shop information obtaining means for

obtaining print shop information of candidate print shops from said print management apparatus in accordance with said using conditions. The user apparatus also comprises print setting obtaining means for obtaining a print setting to be included in a print order, and screen information forming means for forming screen information on the basis of the print shop information of the candidate print shops and the obtained print setting so that the formed screen information indicates whether each print shop of the print shop information of the candidates is selectable or not. The user apparatus also comprises selection accepting means for accepting a designation of selecting print shop information from the print shop information displayed on the basis of the formed screen information, and print order forming means for forming the print order, including the designation of a selected print shop.

Claims 25 and 27 are a computer medium claim and a method claim, respectively, that are directed to the user apparatus side. Claim 23 is an apparatus claim, Claim 26 is a computer medium claim, and Claim 28 is a method claim, each of which are directed to the print management apparatus side. Claim 24 is a system claim. Each of Claims 23 to 28 include features corresponding generally to those of Claim 20.

The applied reference is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 20 and 23 to 28. In particular, on the user apparatus side, the applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of forming screen information on the basis of the print shop information of the candidate print shops and the obtained print setting so that the formed screen information indicates whether each print shop of the print shop information of the candidates is selectable or not, accepting a designation of selecting print shop information from the print shop information displayed

on the basis of the formed screen information, and forming the print order, including the designation of a selected print shop. On the print management apparatus side, the applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of receiving a print order, including a designation of a selected print shop, from a user apparatus, wherein the designation of the selected print shop included with the print order is selected in the user apparatus from screen information formed on the basis of the print shop information of the candidate print shops transmitted to the user apparatus and a print setting obtained by the user apparatus so that the formed screen information indicates whether each print shop of the print shop information of the candidates is selectable or not so as to promote selection of a print shop which is allowed to output the print order.

Kemp is seen to disclose printing over the internet in which service provider information is obtained. (See abstract of Kemp). While Kemp may disclose a portal server 30 that obtains search results meeting criteria provided by the user in a box 81 of a search window 80 (See paragraphs [0060] and [0062] of Kemp), Kemp is not seen to disclose or to suggest, on a user apparatus side, forming screen information on the basis of the print shop information of the candidate print shops and the obtained print setting so that the formed screen information indicates whether each print shop of the print shop information of the candidates is selectable or not, accepting a designation of selecting print shop information from the print shop information displayed on the basis of the formed screen information, and forming the print order, including the designation of a selected print shop. Likewise, on the print management apparatus side, Kemp is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of receiving a print order, including a designation of a selected print shop, from a user apparatus, wherein the designation of the selected print shop

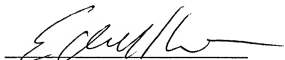
included with the print order is selected in the user apparatus from screen information formed on the basis of the print shop information of the candidate print shops transmitted to the user apparatus and a print setting obtained by the user apparatus so that the formed screen information indicates whether each print shop of the print shop information of the candidates is selectable or not so as to promote selection of a print shop which is allowed to output the print order. Accordingly, independent Claims 20 and 23 to 28 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Kmett', is written over a horizontal line.

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